

Remarks/Arguments

The Applicant requests the entry of the amendments to the claims as proposed above pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. The amendments place the claims in a form for allowance and otherwise comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

The Office Action of June 11, 2002, paras. 11-12, and Final Office Action of March 28, 2003, paras.7-8, set forth objections and indications as to allowable subject matter. Paragraph 12 of the June 11, 2002 Office action provides:

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record fails to teach the use of first and second facing formed from metal. The majority of the prior art teach the use of two plastic covers to form the deck cover. However, the prior art of record does not teach a double metal facing.

Claim 1 as currently amended is consistent with the Examiner's indications as to allowable subject matter and is in a form for allowance. Claim 1 has been amended to include a deck with a first facing and a second facing, both first and second facings being formed of metal. Claim 1 has also been amended to more clearly define the claims and each of these amendments is believed to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicant's amendments should not be construed as a waiver of Applicant's position regarding the scope of the claims or agreement with the Examiner's analysis of the authorities cited.

Claims 5-8, 10-11 and 17 are also in a form for allowance, since they all now depend from Claim 1. It should be noted that Claims 7 and 17 include amendments to more clearly define the claim but these amendments are believed to be compliant with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Claim 33 was previously presented as an independent claim, written to include a first facing and a second facing, both facings being formed of metal. While the March 28, 2003 Office Action notes that Claims 33-38 are allowable if rewritten to include the allowable subject matter, in fact Claims 33-38 were already written with Claim 33 in independent form and including the double facing formed of metal, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable subject matter.

Claims 34-35 and Claim 37 depend from Claim 33 and are in a form for allowance because they depend from an allowable base claim.

Claims 36 and 46 have been cancelled.

It is respectfully submitted that currently amended Claims 38-45, and 47-48, which each now depend from one of either Claim 1 and Claim 33, are all in a form for allowance, because they depend from an allowable base claim.

Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments above be entered and the claims allowed.

App. No. 09/776,530
Amendment dated September 26, 2003
Reply to Final Office Action of March 28, 2003

Applicant is enclosing a check in the amount of \$465.00, to cover the three month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to the Holme Roberts & Owen, LLP deposit account no. 08-2665.

Respectfully Submitted,
HOLME ROBERTS & OWEN LLP

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